GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4183
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
PROTECTION OF FOREST WEALTH
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Old Forest Rangers College building in Dehradun alongwith its campus has been taken over by the local administration without approval from his Ministry as reported in the Times of India dated November 09, 2000;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the take over and destruction of forest wealth and botanical preserves?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) (b)&(c) A proposal to temporarily hand over the Old Rangers College,Dehradun to the newly constituted State of Uttaranchal was discussed in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 10.10.2000. The suggestion was to hand over the said building on a rental basis for a period of two to three years under mutually agreed terms and conditions as the premises were under the occupation/use by the Rural Entrepreneurship for Arts and Cultural Heritage (REACH) jointly with Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. While the proposa was under consideration in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the District Magistrate, Dehradun had forcibly taken over the possession of the Old Rangers College on 2.11.2000 without waiting for any direction from this Ministry. On receipt of the report from the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, a fact finding team was sent from the Ministry. On receip and after examination of the report of the team, the Ministry had requested the State Government of Uttaranchal to vacate the building and hand over the premises to ICFRE, Dehradun. The premises have not yet been handed over to ICFRE.